

CLAIMS

1. A home entertainment system comprising a first component (102) and a second component (104) connected using one or more interconnections for exchanging analogue AV content between the components, the components
5 being operable to :
- exchange analogue AV content using said interconnections, and, during a time interval,
 - exchange data content using at least one of said interconnections,
- 10 wherein, in relation to said time interval, the first component (102) is operable to :
- a) generate an indication, and
 - b) communicate the indication to the second component (104),
- and the second component (104) is operable to :
- 15 I. receive the indication, and, in dependence on the indication,
- II. adapt the processing of content associated with the at least one interconnection used for exchanging data content.
2. A home entertainment system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
20 second component is further operable, in dependence on the indication, to determine the at least one interconnection utilised to exchange data content with the first component.
3. A home entertainment system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
25 second component is operable to adapt the processing of content by inhibiting presentation of said content.
4. A home entertainment system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
interconnections for exchanging analogue AV content are those defined within
30 the Scart specification.

5. A home entertainment system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the at least one interconnection utilised to exchange data content is the Blanking pin 16 of Scart.
- 5 6. A home entertainment system as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the indication is communicated via means separate to the at least one interconnection utilised to exchange data content.
- 10 7. A home entertainment system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the indication is communicated by wireless means.
8. A home entertainment system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the indication is communicated by means of Project50 on pin 10 of Scart.
- 15 9. A method for exchanging data between a first component and a second component of a home entertainment system, which components are connected using one or more interconnections operable to exchange analogue AV content, the method comprising the steps of, for the first component :
- a) acquiring (304) data to exchange with the second component;
 - 20 b) generating (310) an indication which indicates a data exchange mode;
 - c) communicating (311) the indication to the second component;
 - d) exchanging data (312) with the second component using at least one of said interconnections; and
 - e) cancelling (314) the indication to indicate a cessation of the data
 - 25 exchange mode,
- and the method comprising the steps of, for the second component :
- I. checking (354) for an indication from components in the system;
 - II. receiving (356) the indication from the first component;
 - III. exchanging (360) data with the first component; and, in dependence on
 - 30 the indication,
 - IV. adapting (362) the processing of content associated with the at least one interconnection used for exchanging data content.

10. A method as claimed in claim 9, after step a) for the first component, further comprising the steps of:

- determining (306) available analogue AV content interconnections with the second component; and
- selecting (308) at least one of the available interconnections to use to exchange data.

11. A method as claimed in claim 9, after step II for the second component, further comprising the step of:

- determining (358), in dependence on the indication, the at least one interconnection utilised to exchange data with the first component.

12. A method as claimed in any of claims 9 to 11, wherein the indication is communicated to all components of the home entertainment system thereby allowing the components to configure themselves in dependence on the indication.

13. A method as claimed in any of claims 9 to 12, wherein the second component acknowledges the indication to the first component.

14. A method as claimed in any of claims 9 to 13, wherein the second component, during the data exchange, communicates to the first component mode alterations in the availability of interconnections presently being used for data exchange.

15. A use of an at least one interconnection operable to exchange analogue AV content between components of a home entertainment system to, alternatively, exchange data between said components and, during the data exchange, to adapt the processing of content associated with the at least one interconnection by the components.

16. A use as claimed in claim 15, wherein the exchange of data is signalled by means of an indication.

17. A use as claimed in claim 15, wherein the rate of exchange of data is at
5 least 10kbit/sec.

18. A use as claimed in claim 15, wherein the at least one interconnection is embodied within the Scart specification.

10 19. A component of a home entertainment system, the component comprising software configured for carrying out the method steps as claimed in any of the claims 9 to 14.